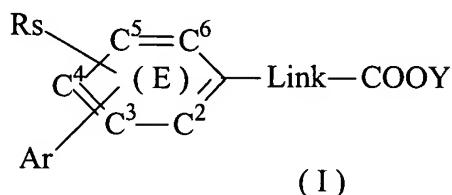


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-30. (Cancelled).

31. (New) A compound represented by the formula (I):



wherein in the formula, Link represents a saturated or unsaturated straight hydrocarbon chain having 1 to 3 carbon atoms,

C², C³, C⁴, C⁵, and C⁶ in the aromatic ring (E) independently represent a ring-constituting carbon atom, one of the ring-constituting carbon atoms to which Rs and AR do not bind may be replaced with V,

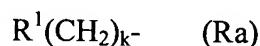
V represents nitrogen atom, or carbon atom substituted with Zx, Zx represents a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, nitro group, -OR⁹, or -N(Rn¹)(Rn²), R⁹ represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or -A⁶-Qp, wherein A⁶ represents a single bond or methylene, Qp represents phenyl group, and the phenyl group may be substituted with one of T¹ or two or more of the same or different T¹, T¹ represents a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, hydroxyl group, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, trifluoromethyl group, nitro group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a mono- or

dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, Rn^1 represents hydrogen atom or a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, Rn^2 has the same meaning as Rn^1 , or represents $-COR^{23}$ or $-SO_2R^{24}$, or binds to Rn^1 to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to form a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, R^{23} represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a lower alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, $-O-A^6-Qp$, or $-N(R^{25})(R^{26})$, R^{25} represents hydrogen atom, or a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R^{26} has the same meaning as R^{25} , or binds to R^{25} to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to form a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, R^{24} represents a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, amino group, or a mono- or dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

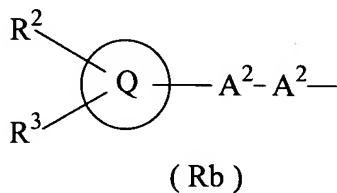
R_s represents $-D-R_x$ or $-N(R_y)(R_z)$,

D represents a single bond, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, or $-C(O)-$,

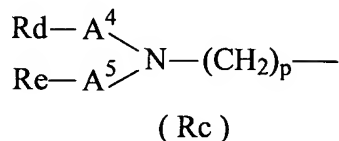
R_x represents a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 3 to 8 carbon atoms, R_a represented by the following formula:



R_b represented by the following formula:



or R_c represented by the following formula:



symbol k in Ra represents 0 or an integer of 1 to 3, R¹ represents a saturated cyclic alkyl group having 3 to 7 carbon atoms, or a condensed saturated cyclic alkyl group having 6 to 8 carbon atoms, and R¹ may be substituted with one of lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or two or more of the same or different lower alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, Q in Rb represents a partially unsaturated or completely unsaturated monocyclic or condensed bicyclic carbon ring or a heterocyclic ring (q), and binds to A² at an arbitrary position on the ring, the heterocyclic ring (q) contains the same or different 1 to 4 ring-constituting heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom, and sulfur atom, A¹ represents a single bond or an alkylene (a) having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and the alkylene (a) may be substituted with a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or phenyl group, A² represents a single bond, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or -N(R⁴)- (provided that when A² represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂- or -N(R⁴)-, A¹ represents ethylene or trimethylene), R² and R³ independently represent hydrogen atom, a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, oxo group, thioxo group, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, trifluoromethyl group, -OR⁵, -N(R⁶)(R^{6'}), -NHCOR⁷, -NHSO₂R⁸, or -A⁶-Qa, or they bind to each other to represent methylenedioxy group, Qa represents a partially unsaturated or completely unsaturated monocyclic or condensed bicyclic carbon ring or a heterocyclic ring (qa), binds to A⁶ at an arbitrary position on the ring, and may be substituted with one of T¹ or two or more of the same or different T¹, the heterocyclic ring (qa) contains the same or different 1 to 4 ring-constituting heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen

atom, and sulfur atom, R^4 and R^6 independently represent hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R^5 and R^7 independently represent hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qa$, R^8 represents a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, $R^{6'}$ has the same meaning as R^6 , or binds to R^6 to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to represent a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, symbol p in R_c represents an integer of 2 to 4, A^4 represents a single bond, methylene, or ethylene, A^5 represents $-C(O)-$, $-C(S)-$, or $-S(O)_2-$, R_d represents hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or Qa , R_e represents an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, $-A^6-Qa$, $-(CH_2)_iR^{14}$, $-OR^{28}$, $-SR^{28}$, or $-N(R^{29})(R^{30})$, symbol i represents an integer of 1 to 3, R^{14} represents hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, carboxyl group, or an N,N -dialkylcarbamoyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R^{28} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qa$, R^{29} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, an alkoxycarbonyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qa$, R^{30} represents hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or binds to R^{29} to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to represent a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group,

R_z has the same meaning as R_x , or R_z represents methyl group, ethyl group, or $-A^5-Re$, R_y represents hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qp$, or R_y may bind to R_z to form, together with a nitrogen atom to which they bind, a saturated or unsaturated 3 to 7-membered nitrogen-containing cyclic group, wherein said nitrogen-containing cyclic group

may optionally be substituted with one or two lower alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms wherein said two alkyl groups may be the same or different,

AR represents a partially unsaturated or completely unsaturated condensed bicyclic carbon ring or a heterocyclic ring (ar), and may be substituted with one of Xa or two or more of the same or different Xa, the heterocyclic ring (ar) contains the same or different 1 to 4 ring-constituting heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom, and sulfur atom, Xa represents a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a saturated cyclic alkyl group having 3 to 7 carbon atoms, oxo group, thioxo group, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, trifluoromethyl group, $-(CH_2)_iR^{14}$, $-OR^{10}$, $-N(R^{11})(R^{12})$, $-SO_2R^{13}$, or $-COR^{27}$, R^{10} represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or $-(CH_2)_iR^{14}$, R^{11} represents hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R^{12} represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, $-COR^{15}$, or $-SO_2R^{16}$, or binds to R^{11} to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to represent a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, R^{15} represents a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, amino group, a mono- or dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qa$, R^{13} and R^{16} independently represent a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, amino group, or a mono- or dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R^{27} represents hydrogen atom, hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, amino group, or a mono- or dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

Y represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, $-(CH_2)_mN(R^{18})(R^{19})$, or $-C(R^{20})_2OC(O)A^3R^{21}$, symbol m represents an integer of 2 or 3, R^{18} is the same as R^{19} , or binds to R^{19} to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to represent a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, R^{19} represents methyl group, ethyl group, or propyl group, R^{20} represents hydrogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, or propyl group, R^{21} represents a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a cyclic saturated alkyl group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or phenyl group, and A^3 represents a single bond, or oxygen atom, or a salt thereof.

32. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 31, which comprises the combination according to general formula (I), wherein in the formula,

Link represents a saturated or unsaturated straight hydrocarbon chain having 1 to 3 carbon atoms,

C^2 , C^3 , C^4 , C^5 , and C^6 in the aromatic ring (E) independently represent a ring-constituting carbon atom, one of the ring-constituting carbon atoms to which Rs and AR do not bind may be replaced with V,

V represents nitrogen atom, or carbon atom substituted with Zx , Zx represents a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, nitro group, $-OR^9$, or $-N(Rn^1)(Rn^2)$, R^9 represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qp$, wherein A^6 represents a single bond or methylene, Qp represents phenyl group, and the phenyl group may be substituted with one of T^1 or two or more of the same or different T^1 , T^1 represents a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having

1 to 4 carbon atoms, hydroxyl group, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, trifluoromethyl group, nitro group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a mono- or dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, Rn^1 represents hydrogen atom or a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, Rn^2 has the same meaning as Rn^1 , or represents $-COR^{23}$ or $-SO_2R^{24}$, or binds to Rn^1 to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to form a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, R^{23} represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a lower alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, $-O-A^6-Qp$, or $-N(R^{25})(R^{26})$, R^{25} represents hydrogen atom, or a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R^{26} has the same meaning as R^{25} , or binds to R^{25} to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to form a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, R^{24} represents a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, amino group, or a mono- or dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

Rs represents $-D-Rx$ or $-N(Ry)(Rz)$,

D represents a single bond, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, or $-C(O)-$,

Rx represents a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 3 to 8 carbon atoms, or represents Ra , Rb , or Rc , wherein symbol k in Ra represents 0 or an integer of 1 to 3, R^1 represents a saturated cyclic alkyl group having 3 to 7 carbon atoms, or a condensed saturated cyclic alkyl group having 6 to 8 carbon atoms, and R^1 may be substituted with one of lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or two or more of the same or different lower alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, Q in Rb represents a partially unsaturated or completely unsaturated monocyclic or condensed bicyclic carbon ring or a heterocyclic ring (q), and binds to A^2 at an

arbitrary position on the ring, the heterocyclic ring (q) contains the same or different 1 to 4 ring-constituting heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom, and sulfur atom, A^1 represents a single bond or an alkylene (a) having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and the alkylene (a) may be substituted with a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or phenyl group, A^2 represents a single bond, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, or $-N(R^4)-$ (provided that when A^2 represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$ or $-N(R^4)-$, A^1 represents ethylene or trimethylene), R^2 and R^3 independently represent hydrogen atom, a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, oxo group, thioxo group, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, trifluoromethyl group, $-OR^5$, $-N(R^6)(R^{6'})$, $-NHCOR^7$, $-NHSO_2R^8$, or $-A^6-Qa$, or they bind to each other to represent methylenedioxy group, Qa represents a partially unsaturated or completely unsaturated monocyclic or condensed bicyclic carbon ring or a heterocyclic ring (qa), binds to A^6 at an arbitrary position on the ring, and may be substituted with one of T^1 or two or more of the same or different T^1 , the heterocyclic ring (qa) contains the same or different 1 to 4 ring-constituting heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom, and sulfur atom. R^4 and R^6 independently represent hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R^5 and R^7 independently represent hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qa$, R^8 represents a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, $R^{6'}$ has the same meaning as R^6 , or binds to R^6 to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to represent a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, symbol p in Rc represents an integer of 2 to 4, A^4 represents a single bond, methylene, or ethylene, A^5 represents $-C(O)-$, $-C(S)-$, or $-S(O)_2-$, Rd represents hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8

carbon atoms, or Qa, Re represents an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, $-A^6-Qa$, $-(CH_2)_iR^{14}$, $-OR^{28}$, $-SR^{28}$, or $-N(R^{29})(R^{30})$, symbol i represents an integer of 1 to 3, R^{14} represents hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, carboxyl group, or an N,N-dialkylcarbamoyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R^{28} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qa$, R^{29} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, an alkoxycarbonyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qa$, R^{30} represents hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or binds to R^{29} to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to represent a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group,

Rz has the same meaning as Rx, or Rz represents methyl group, ethyl group, or $-A^5-Re$, Ry represents hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qp$, or Ry may bind to Rz to form, together with a nitrogen atom to which they bind, a saturated or unsaturated 3 to 7-membered nitrogen-containing cyclic group, wherein said nitrogen-containing cyclic group may optionally be substituted with one or two lower alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms wherein said two alkyl groups may be the same or different,

AR is naphthalen-2-yl group, naphthalen-1-yl group, benzofuran-5-yl group, benzofuran-4-yl group, benzofuran-2-yl group, benzo[b]thiophen-5-yl group, benzo[b]thiophen-4-yl group, benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl group, indol-5-yl group, indol-4-yl group, indol-6-yl group, benzothiazol-6-yl group, benzothiazol-7-yl group, benzothiazol-5-yl group, benzothiazol-4-yl group, dihydro-3H-benzothiazol-6-yl group, dihydro-3H-benzothiazol-7-yl group, dihydro-3H-benzothiazol-5-yl group, dihydro-3H-benzothiazol-4-yl group, quinolin-6-yl group, quinolin-3-yl group, quinolin-5-yl group, quinolin-7-yl group, dihydro-1H-quinolin-6-yl group, dihydro-1H-quinolin-5-yl

group, benzo[d]isothiazol-5-yl group, benzo[d]isothiazol-4-yl group, benzo[d]isothiazol-6-yl group, benzo[d]isothiazol-7-yl group, 1H-indazol-5-yl group, 1H-indazol-4-yl group, 1H-indazol-6-yl group, benzo[c]isothiazol-5-yl group, benzo[c]isothiazol-4-yl group, benzo[c]isothiazol-6-yl group, benzo[c]isothiazol-7-yl group, 2H-indazol-5-yl group, 2H-indazol-4-yl group, 2H-indazol-6-yl group, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-6-yl group, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-7-yl group, 1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-5-yl group, 1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl group, isoquinolin-6-yl group, isoquinolin-3-yl group, isoquinolin-5-yl group, isoquinolin-7-yl group, dihydro-2H-isoquinolin-6-yl group, dihydro-2H-isoquinolin-5-yl group, cinnolin-6-yl group, cinnolin-5-yl group, quinazolin-6-yl group, quinazolin-7-yl group, quinazolin-5-yl group, quinoxalin-2-yl group, quinoxalin-6-yl group, quinoxalin-5-yl group, 1H-benzimidazol-5-yl group, 1H-benzimidazol-4-yl group, benzoxazol-5-yl group, benzoxazol-6-yl group, benzoxazol-4-yl group, benzoxazol-7-yl group, 1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-5-yl group, 1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-6-yl group, benzo[1,2,5]thiadiazol-5-yl group, benzo[1,2,5]thiadiazol-4-yl group, 1H-benzotriazol-5-yl group, 1H-benzotriazol-4-yl group, 1,3-dihydropyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-5-yl group, 1,3-dihydropyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl group, 1,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-yl group, 1,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-4-yl group, dihydro-3H-benzoxazol-6-yl group, dihydro-3H-benzoxazol-7-yl group, dihydro-3H-benzoxazol-5-yl group, dihydro-3H-benzoxazol-4-yl group, phthalazin-6-yl group, phthalazin-5-yl group, [1,8]naphthalidin-3-yl group, [1,8]naphthalidin-4-yl group, [1,5]naphthalidin-3-yl group, [1,5]naphthalidin-4-yl group, 1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridin-6-yl group, 1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridin-4-yl group, 1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-5-yl group, 1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-4-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridin-5-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridin-6-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-6-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-4-yl

group, 1H-pyrazolo[3,4-c]pyridin-5-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[3,4-c]pyridin-4-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridin-5-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridin-4-yl group, [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl group, [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-7-yl group, thieno[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl group, thieno[3,2-c]pyridin-3-yl group, thieno[3,2-c]pyridin-6-yl group, thieno[3,2-b]pyridin-2-yl group, thieno[3,2-b]pyridin-3-yl group, thieno[3,2-b]pyridin-5-yl group, thieno[3,2-b]pyridin-6-yl group, 1H-thieno[3,2-c]pyrazol-5-yl group, 1H-thieno[3,2-c]pyrazol-4-yl group, benzo[d]isoxazol-5-yl group, benzo[d]isoxazol-4-yl group, benzo[d]isoxazol-6-yl group, benzo[d]isoxazol-7-yl group, benzo[c]isoxazol-5-yl group, benzo[c]isoxazol-4-yl group, benzo[c]isoxazol-6-yl group, benzo[c]isoxazol-7-yl group, indolizin-7-yl group, indolizin-6-yl group, indolizine-8-yl group, 1,3-dihydroindol-5-yl group, 1,3-dihydroindol-4-yl group, 1,3-dihydroindol-6-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]thiazol-5-yl group, 2H-isoindol-5-yl group, 2H-isoindol-4-yl group, [1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-6-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyrazin-5-yl group, 1H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyrazin-5-yl group, 7H-purin-2-yl group, 4H-chromen-6-yl group, or 4H-chromen-5-yl group, wherein the aforementioned groups may be substituted with one of Xa or two or more of the same or different Xa, Xa represents a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a saturated cyclic alkyl group having 3 to 7 carbon atoms, oxo group, thioxo group, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, trifluoromethyl group, $-(CH_2)_iR^{14}$, $-OR^{10}$, $-N(R^{11})(R^{12})$, $-SO_2R^{13}$, or $-COR^{27}$, R^{10} represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or $-(CH_2)_iR^{14}$, R^{11} represents hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R^{12} represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, $-COR^{15}$, or $-SO_2R^{16}$, or binds to R^{11} to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the

nitrogen atom to which they bind to represent a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, R^{15} represents a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, amino group, a mono- or dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qa$, R^{13} and R^{16} independently represent a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, amino group, or a mono- or dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R^{27} represents hydrogen atom, hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, amino group, or a mono- or dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

Y represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, $-(CH_2)_mN(R^{18})(R^{19})$, or $-C(R^{20})_2OC(O)A^3R^{21}$, symbol m represents an integer of 2 or 3, R^{18} is the same as R^{19} , or binds to R^{19} to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to represent a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, R^{19} represents methyl group, ethyl group, or propyl group, R^{20} represents hydrogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, or propyl group, R^{21} represents a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a cyclic saturated alkyl group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or phenyl group, and A^3 represents a single bond, or oxygen atom,

provided that the following compounds are excluded:

the compound wherein AR is a residue of naphthalene, benzofuran, benzo[b]thiophene, indole, benzothiazole, dihydro-3H-benzothiazole, quinoline, dihydro-1H-quinoline, benzo[d]isothiazole, 1H-indazole, benzo[c]isothiazole, 2H-indazole, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine, 1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine, isoquinoline, or dihydro-2H-isoquinoline, wherein the

aforementioned residue may be substituted with one of Xa or two or more of the same or different Za;

the compound wherein Link is $-(CH_2)_n$, AR binds to C^3 in the aromatic ring (E), Rs binds to C^4 in the aromatic ring (E), C^5 is a ring-constituting carbon atom substituted with Zx, or an unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atom, C^2 and C^6 are unsubstituted ring-constituting atoms, Rx is -O-Rx, and Rx is a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 3 to 8 carbon atoms, or Rx is Ra or Rb.

33. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 32, wherein Link is $-(CH_2)_n$, n is an integer of 1 to 3, Rz has the same meaning as that of Rx or represents $-A^5-Re$ when Rs is $-N(Ry)(Rz)$, and Ry is hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or A^6-Qp , or Ry binds to Rz to form, together with a nitrogen atom to which they bind, a saturated or unsaturated 3 to 7-membered nitrogen-containing cyclic group.

34. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 33, wherein Rs is -D-Rx or $-N(Ry)(Rz)$, D is a single bond, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, or $-C(O)-$, Rx is a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 3 to 8 carbon atoms, or Ra, Rb, or Rc, k in Ra is 0 or an integer of 1 to 3, R^1 is a saturated cycloalkyl group having 3 to 7 carbon atoms or a condensed saturated cycloalkyl group having 6 to 8 carbon atoms, R^1 may be substituted with one of lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or two or more of the same or different lower alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, Q in Rb is phenyl group, thienyl group, furyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyridyl group, oxazolyl group, isoxazolyl group, thiazolyl group,

isothiazolyl group, imidazolyl group, pyrazolyl group, oxadiazolyl group, thiadiazolyl group, triazolyl group, tetrazolyl group, naphthyl group, tetrahydronaphthyl group, indanyl group, indenyl group, quinolyl group, isoquinolyl group, indolyl group, benzofuryl group, benzothienyl group, benzimidazolyl group, benzoxazolyl group, benzothiazolyl group, indazolyl group, 4H-chromenyl group, dihydrobenzodioxyl group, benzoisoxazolyl group, pyrrolopyridinyl group, pyrazolopyridinyl group, triazolopyridinyl group, thienopyridinyl group, thienopyrazolyl group, 1,3-dihydrobenzimidazole group, dihydro-3H-benzoxazole group, or dihydro-3H-benzothiazole group (the aforementioned groups bond to A² at an arbitrary position on the rings), A¹ is a single bond or an alkylene (a) having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, the alkylene (a) may be substituted with a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or phenyl group, A² is a single bond, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or -N(R⁴)- (provided that when A² represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or -N(R⁴)-, A¹ represents ethylene or trimethylene), R² and R³ independently represent hydrogen atom, a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, oxo group, thioxo group, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, trifluoromethyl group, -OR⁵, -N(R⁶)(R^{6'}), -NHCOR⁷, -NHSO₂R⁸, or -A⁶-Qa, or they bind to each other to represent methylenedioxy group, Qa is phenyl group, pyridyl group, oxazolyl group, isoxazolyl group, thiazolyl group, isothiazolyl group, imidazolyl group, pyrazolyl group, oxadiazolyl group, thiadiazolyl group, triazolyl group, tetrazolyl group, naphthyl group, indanyl group, indenyl group, quinolyl group, isoquinolyl group, indolyl group, benzofuryl group, benzothienyl group, benzimidazolyl group, benzoxazolyl group, benzothiazolyl group, or indazolyl group wherein the aforementioned groups may be substituted with one of T¹ or two or more of the same or different T¹, and bind to A⁶ at an arbitrary position on the rings, R⁴ and R⁶

independently represent hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R^5 and R^7 independently represent hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qa$, R^8 is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, $R^{6'}$ has the same meaning as R^6 , or binds to R^6 to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to form a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, p in Rc is an integer of 2 to 4, A^4 is a single bond or methylene or ethylene, A^5 is $-C(O)-$, $-C(S)-$, or $-S(O)_2-$, Rd is hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or Qa , Re is an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, $-A^6-Qa$, $-(CH_2)_iR^{14}$, $-OR^{28}$, $-SR^{28}$, or $-N(R^{29})(R^{30})$, i is an integer of 1 to 3, R^{14} is hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, carboxyl group, or an N,N -dialkylcarbamoyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R^{28} is an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms or $-A^6-Qa$, R^{29} is an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, an alkoxycarbonyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qa$ group, R^{30} is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or binds to R^{29} to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to form a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, Rz has the same meaning as Rx , or is $-A^5-Re$, and Ry is hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qp$, or binds to Rz to form a saturated or unsaturated nitrogen-containing cyclic substituent having 3 to 7 atoms together with nitrogen atom to which they bind.

35. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 33, wherein Rs is $-O-Rx$.

36. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 33, wherein AR binds to C³ in the aromatic ring (E), and Rs binds to one of the ring-constituting carbon atoms C⁴, C⁵, and C⁶.

37. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 33, wherein AR binds to C² in the aromatic ring (E), and Rs binds to one of the ring-constituting carbon atoms C³, C⁴, and C⁵.

38. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 36, wherein Rs is -O-Rx, and all of C², C³, C⁴, C⁵, and C⁶ in the aromatic ring (E) are not replaced with V.

39. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 37, wherein n is an integer of 2, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

40. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 36, wherein Rs binds to the ring-constituting carbon atom C⁵ or C⁶ in the aromatic ring (E).

41. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 40, wherein Rs is -O-Rx, and all of C², C³, C⁴, C⁵, and C⁶ in the aromatic ring (E) are not replaced with V.

42. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 41, wherein n is an integer of 2, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

43. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 36, wherein Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), and C⁶ is replaced with V.

44. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 43, wherein n is an integer of 2, V is carbon atom substituted with Zx, D is oxygen atom, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

45. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 36, wherein Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ is nitrogen atom, and C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, or wherein Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ is a ring-constituting carbon atom substituted with Zx, or an unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atom, C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, and Rs is -N(Ry)(Rz), or wherein Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ is a ring-constituting carbon atom substituted with Zx, or an unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atom, C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, Rs is -D-Rx, and D is a single bond, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or -C(O)-.

46. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 45, wherein Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ is nitrogen atom, and C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms.

47. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 46, wherein n is an integer of 2, Rs is -O-Rx, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

48. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 45, wherein Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ is a ring-constituting carbon atom substituted with Zx, or an unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atom, C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, and Rs is -N(Ry)(Rz).

49. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 32, wherein Link is -(CH₂)_n-, n is an integer of 1 to 3, C² and C⁶ in the aromatic ring (E) are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, AR binds to C³ in the aromatic ring (E), and Rs is -N(Ry)(Rz) and binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E).

50. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 49, wherein n is 2, and C⁵ is carbon atom substituted with Zx or unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atom.

51. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 49, wherein Rz is a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or Rz is Ra, Rb, or Rc, k in Ra is 0 or an integer of 1 to 3, R¹ is a saturated cyclic alkyl group having 3 to 7 carbon atoms or a condensed saturated cyclic alkyl group having 6 to 8 carbon atoms, R¹ may be substituted with one of lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or two or more of the same or different lower alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, Q in Rb is phenyl group, thienyl group, furyl

group, pyrrolyl group, pyridyl group, oxazolyl group, isoxazolyl group, thiazolyl group, isothiazolyl group, imidazolyl group, pyrazolyl group, oxadiazolyl group, thiadiazolyl group, triazolyl group, tetrazolyl group, naphthyl group, tetrahydronaphthyl group, indanyl group, indenyl group, quinolyl group, isoquinolyl group, indolyl group, benzofuryl group, benzothienyl group, benzimidazolyl group, benzoxazolyl group, benzothiazolyl group, indazolyl group, 4H-chromenyl group, dihydrobenzodioxyl group, benzoisoxazolyl group, pyrrolopyridinyl group, pyrazolopyridinyl group, triazolopyridinyl group, thienopyridinyl group, thienopyrazolyl group, 1,3-dihydrobenzimidazole group, dihydro-3H-benzoxazole group, or dihydro-3H-benzothiazole group, wherein the aforementioned groups binds to A² at an arbitrary position, A¹ is a single bond or an alkylene (a) having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, the alkylene (a) may be substituted with a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or phenyl group, A² is a single bond, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or -N(R⁴)-, provided that when A² represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or -N(R⁴)-, A¹ represents ethylene or trimethylene, R² and R³ independently represent hydrogen atom, a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, oxo group, thioxo group, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, trifluoromethyl group, -OR⁵, -N(R⁶)(R^{6'}), -NHCOR⁷, -NHSO₂R⁸, or -A⁶-Qa, or they bind to each other to represent methylenedioxy group, Qa is phenyl group, pyridyl group, oxazolyl group, isoxazolyl group, thiazolyl group, isothiazolyl group, imidazolyl group, pyrazolyl group, oxadiazolyl group, thiadiazolyl group, triazolyl group, tetrazolyl group, naphthyl group, indanyl group, indenyl group, quinolyl group, isoquinolyl group, indolyl group, benzofuryl group, benzothienyl group, benzimidazolyl group, benzoxazolyl group, benzothiazolyl group, or indazolyl group, wherein these groups may be substituted with one of T¹ or two or more of the

same or different T^1 , and bind to A^6 at an arbitrary position on the ring, R^4 and R^6 independently represent hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R^5 and R^7 independently represent hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qa$, R^8 is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, $R^{6'}$ has the same meaning as R^6 , or binds to R^6 to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to form a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, p in Rc is an integer of 2 to 4, A^4 is a single bond or methylene or ethylene, A^5 is $-C(O)-$, $-C(S)-$, or $-S(O)_2-$, Rd is hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or Qa , Re is an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, $-A^6-Qa$, $-(CH_2)_iR^{14}$, $-OR^{28}$, $-SR^{28}$, or $-N(R^{29})(R^{30})$, i is an integer of 1 to 3, R^{14} is hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, carboxyl group, or an N,N -dialkylcarbamoyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R^{28} is an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms or $-A^6-Qa$, R^{29} is an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, an alkoxycarbonyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qa$ group, R^{30} is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or binds to R^{29} to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to form a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, and Ry is hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or binds to Rz to form a saturated or unsaturated nitrogen-containing cyclic substituent having 3 to 7 atoms together with nitrogen atom to which they binds and said nitrogen-containing cyclic substituent may be substituted with one or two lower alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms wherein said two alkyl groups may be the same or different.

52. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 45, wherein Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ is a ring-constituting carbon atom substituted with Zx, or an unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atom, C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, Rs is -D-Rx, and D is a single bond, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or -C(O)-.

53. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 36, wherein AR binds to C³ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ is a ring-constituting carbon atom substituted with Zx, or an unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atom, C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, Rs is -D-Rx, and D is a single bond, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or C(O)-.

54. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 52, wherein Rs is -D-Rx, and D is a single bond.

55. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 52, wherein n is an integer of 2, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

56. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 36, wherein Link is -(CH₂)_n-, n is an integer of 2, AR binds C³ in the aromatic ring (E), Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ is a ring-constituting carbon atom substituted with the substituent Zx, or an unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atom, C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, Rs is -D-Rx, D is a single bond, sulfur atom, S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or C(O)-, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

57. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 36, wherein Link is $-(CH_2)_n-$, n is an integer of 2, AR binds C^3 in the aromatic ring (E), Rs binds to C^4 in the aromatic ring (E), C^5 may be replaced with V, C^2 and C^6 are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, Rs is -D-Rx, D is a single bond, sulfur atom, S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$, or C(O)-, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

58. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 36, wherein n is an integer of 2, Rs binds to C^4 in the aromatic ring (E), C^5 is a carbon atom substituted with $-N(R_{N1})(R_{N2})$, provided that one of R_{N1} and R_{N2} is a substituent other than hydrogen atom, C^2 and C^6 are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, Rs is -O-Rx, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

59. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 36, wherein n is an integer of 2, Rs binds to C^4 in the aromatic ring (E), C^5 is a ring-constituting carbon atom substituted with the substituent Zx, or an unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atom, C^2 and C^6 are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, Rs is -O-Rc, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

60. (New) A medicament containing the compound according to claim 33 or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

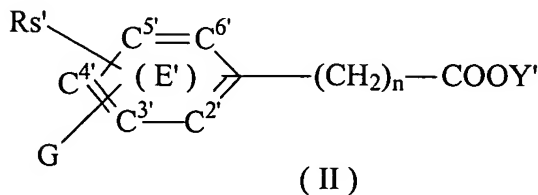
61. (New) A medicament containing the compound according to claim 45 or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

62. (New) An agent for suppressing production of a prostaglandin and/or leukotriene, which comprises the compound according to claim 33 or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

63. (New) An agent for suppressing production of a prostaglandin and/or leukotriene, which comprises the compound according to claim 45 or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

64. (New) An agent for prophylactic and/or therapeutic treatment of pulmonary fibrosis which comprises the compound according to claim 31 or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

65. (New) A compound represented by the formula (II):



wherein in the formula, C^{2'}, C^{3'}, C^{4'}, C^{5'}, and C^{6'} in the aromatic ring (E') independently represent a ring-constituting carbon atom, any one of them to which Rs' and G do not bind may be replaced with V',

V' represents nitrogen atom, or carbon atom substituted with Zx', Zx' has the same meaning as Zx mentioned above, provided that when Zx contains hydroxyl group, the hydroxyl group may be protected with Rp¹, and when Zx contains amino group, the amino group may be protected with Rp²,

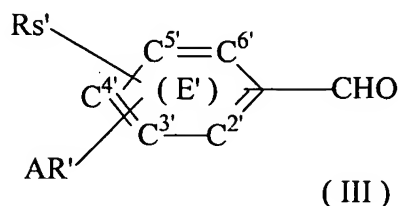
Rs' represents -D-Rx' or -N(Ry')(Rz'),

-D-Rx' and -N(Ry')(Rz') have the same meanings as -D-Rx and -N(Ry)(Rz) mentioned above, respectively, provided that when -D-Rx or -N(Ry)(Rz) contains hydroxyl group, the hydroxyl group may be protected with Rp¹, and when -D-Rx or -N(Ry)(Rz) contains amino group, the amino group may be protected with Rp²,

G represents chlorine atom, bromine atom, iodine atom, mesylate group, triflate group, or an arenesulfonate group of which aromatic portion may be substituted with one of T¹ or two or more of the same or different T¹, and

Y' represents a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

66. (New) A compound represented by the formula (III):



wherein in the formula, C^{2'}, C^{3'}, C^{4'}, C^{5'} and C^{6'} in the aromatic ring (E') independently represent a ring-constituting carbon atom, any one of these ring-constituting carbon atoms to which Rs' and AR' do not bind may be replaced with V', and AR' has the same meaning as that of AR, provided that when AR contains hydroxyl group, the hydroxyl group may be protected with Rp¹, and when AR contains amino group, the amino group may be protected with Rp².

67. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 53, wherein Rs is -D-Rx and D is a single bond.

68. (New) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 53, wherein n is an integer of 2, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.